



Jim Doyle, Governor  
Mary P. Burke, Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

Recent questions have prompted this notification to local fire and safety officials throughout the state. Since “stationary” Department of Transportation “DOT” stamped propane storage cylinders that are normally filled on site and do not fall under the jurisdiction of DOT, the intent of this notice is to make everyone aware of little known but important code requirements that have been in effect since December 1, 2004.

A copy of Chapter Comm 40, Gas Systems Code may be obtained from our website under “Gas Systems Program” at: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-GasSystemsProgram.html>. While on the website one can also get a quick introduction to requirements by obtaining the Gas Systems brochure which provides a district map, name, telephone and address of the District Inspector in your area including a brief description of the Gas System rules.

Below are the important rules that all community fire and safety officials should be aware of.

- Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter Comm 40, Gas Systems is the source reference for propane.
- Comm 40.30(2) a (2), Gas Systems Code adopts NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas “LPG” 2004 edition (National Standard with propane rule details).
- NFPA 58, Section 5.2.3.1 Requires DOT cylinders in stationary service that are filled on site and therefore are not under the jurisdiction of DOT either shall be re-qualified in accordance with DOT requirements or shall be visually inspected within 12 years of the date of manufacture and within every five years thereafter, in accordance with 5.2.3.1(A) through (C).
- NFPA 58, Section 5.2.3.1 (A) Requires that any cylinder that fails one or more of the criteria in 5.2.3.1(c) shall not be refilled or continued in service until the condition is corrected.
- NFPA 58, Section 5.2.3.1 (B) Requires that personnel shall be trained and qualified to perform inspections. Training shall be documented in accordance with section 4.4.
- NFPA 58, Section 5.2.3.1 (C) Requires that visual inspections shall be performed per the following:
  1. The cylinder is checked for exposure to fire, dents, cuts, digs, gouges, and corrosion according to CGA C-6 standard for visual inspection of steel compressed gas cylinders except that paragraph 4.2.1.1(1) of that standard (which requires tare weight verification) shall not be part of required inspection criteria.
  2. The cylinder protective collar (where utilized) and the foot ring are intact and firmly attached.
  3. The cylinder is painted or coated to retard corrosion.
  4. The cylinder pressure relief indicates no visible damage, corrosion of operating components or obstructions.
  5. There is no leakage from the cylinder or its appurtenances that is detectable without the use of instruments.
  6. The cylinder is installed on a firm foundation and is not in contact with the soil.
  7. A cylinder that passes the visual examination shall be marked with the month and year of the examination followed by the Letter “E” (example 10-01E, indicating re-qualification in October 2001 by the external inspection method).
  8. The results of the visual inspection shall be documented and a record of the inspection shall be retained for a 5 year period.

Although propane suppliers may already be completing the necessary inspection, we hope this information will assist safety personnel in your area. Should further questions arise, contact any of our Gas System staff or Fire Prevention Coordinators.

Sincerely,

Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division

Waukesha Office

Michael Verhagen  
Mechanical Safety Specialist  
262-548-8617

Madison Office

Joseph Hertel	Rick Merkle
Program Manager	Section Supervisor
608-266-5649	608-266-3037